

Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration

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Facts About the National Cemetery Administration

MISSION

The National Cemetery Administration honors veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation.

NCA STATISTICS

- NCA currently maintains more than 2.7 million gravesites at 123 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico, as well as in 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites.
- Approximately 290,000 full-casket gravesites, 55,700 in-ground gravesites for cremated remains, and 52,400 columbarium niches are available in already developed acreage in our 123 national cemeteries.
- There are more than 16,000 acres within established installations in NCA. Just over half are undeveloped and—with available gravesites in developed acreage—have the potential to provide more than 3.6 million gravesites.
- Of the 123 national cemeteries, 63 are open to all interments; 21 can accommodate cremated remains and the remains of family members for interment in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member; and 39 will perform only interments of family members in the same gravesite as a previously deceased family member.
- Since 1973, annual interments in VA national cemeteries have increased by more than 150 percent, from 36,400 to more than 93,000 in fiscal year 2005. Interments are expected to increase annually until 2009.
- Of the more than 93,000 interments conducted in fiscal year 2005, 72.6 percent were in the 20 busiest national cemeteries: Riverside, Calif., Florida, Calverton, N.Y., Fort Snelling, Minn., Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Fort Logan, Colo., Willamette, Ore., National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona, Houston, Texas, Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas, Fort Rosecrans, Calif., Massachusetts, Abraham Lincoln, Ill., San Joaquin Valley, Calif., Tahoma, Wash., Long Island, N.Y., Indiantown Gap, Pa., Ohio Western Reserve and Puerto Rico National Cemeteries.

- As of Sept. 30, 2005, seven national cemeteries each contained more than 100,000 occupied gravesites, collectively accounting for 38 percent of all NCA gravesites maintained: Long Island, N.Y., Calverton, N.Y., Fort Snelling, Minn., Riverside, Calif., Jefferson Barracks, Mo., Golden Gate, Calif., and Willamette, Ore., National Cemeteries.
- Largest National Cemetery: Calverton (N.Y.) 1,045 acres.
Smallest National Cemetery: Hampton at the VA Medical Center, (Va.) .03 acres.
Oldest National Cemetery: 14 established in 1862 (12 are maintained by VA).
Newest National Cemetery: Georgia National Cemetery in April 2006.
- Since 1973, NCA has provided more than 9.1 million headstones and markers. In fiscal year 2005, NCA provided 368,900 headstones and markers.
- NCA provided more than 487,800 Presidential Memorial Certificates to the loved ones of deceased veterans in fiscal year 2005.
- Since 1980, NCA's State Cemetery Grants Program has obligated more than \$240 million to 31 states and Guam for the establishment, expansion or improvement of 69 state veterans cemeteries. In fiscal year 2005, NCA supported state cemeteries provided more than 20,000 interments.
- Volunteers donated approximately 381,000 hours at national cemeteries during fiscal year 2005.
- More than 8.8 million people visited VA national cemeteries in fiscal year 2005.
- In 1999 and 2003, with the passage of two laws, Congress directed VA to establish 12 new national cemeteries. One has been opened in Oklahoma, one in Pennsylvania, one in Michigan and one in Georgia. The rest – one in Alabama, two in California, three in Florida, one in Pennsylvania and one in South Carolina – will be located near large populations of veterans who currently do not have access to a burial option.

VETERAN STATISTICS

- VA estimates that more than 683,000 veterans in the U.S. and Puerto Rico died in 2005. Historically, about 12 percent of U.S. veterans choose to be buried in VA national and state cemeteries.